

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-11 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04

TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 /098 W

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R 161535Z JAN 76

FM USDEL MTN GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1041

INFO AMEMBASSY RANGOON

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H PASS CODEL

PASS STR FOR INFO

PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MTN ETRD

SUBJECT: TROPICAL PRODUCTS CONSULTATION--BURMA

REF: MTN GENEVA A-5, 75 MTN GENEVA A-323

1. CONSULTATION HELD JAN 15 WITH BURMESE MTN DEL (GALAY) ON THEIR INITIAL AND SUPPLEMENTARY TROPICAL PRODUCT (TP) REQUEST LISTS (SEE REF AIRGRAMS). US MTN DEL DETAILED THREE CATEGORIES OF US REACTIONS, OUTLINED POSITION ON RECIPROCITY IN TP CONTEXT, AND INDICATED GSP ITEMS IN A SIMILAR MANNER TO PREVIOUS REPORTING CABLES ON CONSULTATIONS.

2. GALAY TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY OF THE CONSULTATION TO STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF ONE OR SEVERAL NEW TARIFF POSITIONS FOR TEAK PRODUCTS. HE INDICATED DEVELOPMENT PLANNING IN BURMA

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DEPENDENT HEAVILY ON EXPLOITING ITS TEAK RESOURCES GIVEN

THAT TEAK WAS A UNIQUE WOOD. CURRENTLY BURMA EXPORTS TEAK AS LOGS OR LUMBER TO JAPAN AND SCANDANAVIA. GALAY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT MANY OF THE ITEMS REQUESTED BY BURMA WERE ON GSP BUT STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF MFN CONCESSIONS WHICH WERE BOUND AND PERMANENT AND WOULD SERVE BETTER TO ATTRACT NECESSARY INVESTMENT.

3. GALAY EXPLAINED THE IMPORTANCE OF REQUESTS A NUMBER OF MINOR WOOD PRODUCTS SUCH AS DOWELS, TSUS 200.95, PACKING BOXES, TSUS 204.30, AND OTHER WOOD BOXES, TSUS 204.40-.50. HE NOTED THAT CURRENT REGULATIONS IN BURMA DEFINED SCRAP PIECES OF TEAK AS THOSE LESS THAN 14 INCHES IN LENGTH AND THAT THIS WASTE WAS BY AND LARGE BEING SOLD AS FIREWOOD. HE NOTED THAT IT WAS A POTENTIAL TO USE THIS SCRAP MATERIAL FOR SMALL PROCESSED TEAK PRODUCTS SUCH AS PARQUET FLOOR FINGERS GIVEN ASSURED MARKET ACCESS.

4. MTN DEL EXPLAINED THAT THERE WERE NO SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REQUEST FOR RECLASSIFICATION BUT THAT THERE WAS A PRACTICAL DIFFICULTY IN DEFINING TROPICAL HARDWOODS OR SELECTING A WOOD SUCH AS TEAK FOR SPECIAL CONSIDERATION. MTN DEL ADDED THAT NEARLY ONE-THIRD OF THE PRODUCTS ON BURMESE REQUEST LIST WERE CATEGORY 1 PRODUCTS AND THAT OVER TWO-THIRDS OF THE PRODUCTS WERE COVERED BY US GSP.

5. BURMESE DELEGATE GALAY EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF US POSITION WITH RESPECT TO CONTRIBUTIONS TO TP PRODUCT BUT COULD NOT REACT UNTIL US IDENTIFIED SPECIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS IT MIGHT SEEK FROM BURMA. MTN DEL EXPLAINED THAT THE POSITION IT DESCRIBED APPLIED GENERALLY TO LDC'S AND THAT IT COULD NOT AT THIS TIME IDENTIFY SPECIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS BURMA MIGHT MAKE TO A TP PACKAGE. MTN DEL, HOWEVER, DID INDICATE THAT CURRENT BURMESE TRADE WITH US WAS VERY MINOR AND THAN IN MANY CASES PRINCIPAL AND SUBSTANTIAL SUPPLIERS OF THESE PRODUCTS WOULD BE EXPECTED TO CONTRIBUTE MORE TO A TP PACKAGE. CULBERT

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